

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic bearing element, comprising:  
at least one annular permanent magnet (2, 3) divided in a circumferential direction thereof at at least one location (4) into a plurality of segments, said segments spaced apart from one another at said at least one location; and  
an annular binding band (5) surrounding said at least one annular permanent magnet,  
wherein the plurality of spaced apart segments are not in contact with adjacent segments.
2. (Original) The magnetic bearing element according to Claim 1, wherein the location (4) is embodied as a radially extending slit.
3. (Previously Presented) The magnetic bearing element according to Claim 1, wherein the permanent magnet (2, 3) is divided and spaced apart at multiple locations (4).
4. (Previously Presented) The magnetic bearing element according to Claim 3, wherein the locations (4) are distributed regularly around a periphery of the permanent magnet (2, 3).
5. (Previously Presented) The magnetic bearing element according to Claim 1, wherein the bearing element comprises multiple permanent magnets (2, 3) arranged concentrically with one another, all of which are divided at at least one location (4) and spaced apart there.
6. (Original) The magnetic bearing element according to Claim 5, wherein the locations (4) at which the permanent magnets (2, 3) are divided and there spaced apart are offset from one another in the circumferential direction.
7. (Previously Presented) The magnetic bearing element according to Claim 1, wherein the annular binding band (5) is made from a carbon-fiber material.